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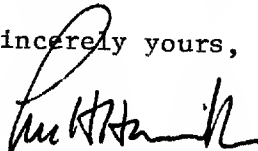
Dear Mr. Maury:

On behalf of the Subcommittee on the Near East, I would like to thank you and [REDACTED] for arranging the informal briefing for the Subcommittee. I also wish to thank [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for their succinct and analytical presentations which proved most enlightening and which will be beneficial for the Subcommittee in its deliberations.

So many of the decisions on the Middle East, as elsewhere, are 55-45 decisions meaning good arguments can be marshalled for both sides. This makes it imperative that the Subcommittee investigate all aspects and ramifications of each issue, and in pursuit of a clearer understanding, we have sought the counsel of as many different analysts as possible.

Thanks again for your Agency's excellent briefing.

Sincerely yours,



Lee H. Hamilton, M.C.  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on the Near East